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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The rebuilding of Hungarian blast furnaces was completed by the end of 1949. By that time, the war-damaged furnaces were repaired sufficiently to be capable of their maximum normal production which meant 440,000 tons of pig iron and 790,000 tons of raw steel.

2. Russian requirements are naturally not met with this output, and a higher production rate was prescribed for 1950. This is to be accomplished not by building new blast furnaces, which would take a long time, but by immediately requiring an increased output from the existing furnaces. This can be done only if the size of the charges which are put into the furnaces is increased or if the smelting time is reduced. Naturally, the above two primitive methods are harder to carry out in the large blast furnaces and a faster and more spectacular result is obtained in the small furnaces and electro-steel furnaces, used in the production of quality steel.

3. At the Ozd blast furnace the output in 24 hours is five charges, but they succeeded in putting 60 tons of material into the 25-ton furnace. This shows only limited progress in comparison with the past, when, at times, 45 tons were put into the furnace. This forced charging, however, was not even used during World War II. The furnaces are adapted to this forced output by insignificant alterations; viz., the fire-resistant coating is changed somewhat. In the case of one large blast furnace the complete inner coating of silicon bricks was replaced by radex bricks. To reduce smelting time, the pressure of the air is raised and pure oxygen is introduced into the air blast. Since, in the smaller furnaces, it is more difficult to increase the charge appreciably, efforts are directed toward reducing the smelting time. Thus, the three-ton electric furnaces of the Rakosi Works (Rakosi Müvek) are charged with four tons of material and the smelting time is reduced from three and one half to two and one half hours. In the case of a larger eight-ton electric furnace, nine tons are put in and smelting time is reduced from five to three and one quarter hours. Naturally, it is not to be assumed that the above differences in charges and time increased the monthly and yearly output of the furnaces, because forced production causes numerous breakdowns, work stoppages, and repairs.

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